# Mountain Weather Forecast

## Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Friday 10 Dec 2021 until 23:59 on Saturday 11 Dec 2021

Forecast Issued on Thursday 09 Dec 2021 at 14:42

**Confidence:** High for general developments until Sunday then Medium. Medium for cloud details.

**Headline for Friday 10 Dec 2021:** Bright with snow showers. Feeling cold in the strong northwesterly winds.

**Mountain weather hazards on Friday 10 Dec 2021**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Blizzards**<br>Low Likelihood | **Heavy Snow**<br>No Likelihood | **Storm force winds**<br>No Likelihood |
| **Gales**<br>No Likelihood | **Severe chill effect**<br>Medium Likelihood | **Poor visibility**<br>Low Likelihood |
| **Thunderstorms**<br>No Likelihood | **Heavy persistent rain**<br>No Likelihood | **Strong sunlight**<br>No Likelihood |

| **Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m** | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Time | | | | | | | |
| 00:00 | 03:00 | 06:00 | 09:00 | 12:00 | 15:00 | 18:00 | 21:00 |
| Partly cloudy (night) | Partly cloudy (night) | Partly cloudy (night) | Light snow showers | Light snow showers | Cloudy | Partly cloudy (night) | Partly cloudy (night) |
| Precipitation probability | | | | | | | |
| 20% | 30% | 30% | 50% | 50% | 30% | 30% | 20% |

**Forecast for Friday 10 Dec 2021**

**Weather:** Mainly dry overnight with patchy cloud and the odd wintry shower. Bright spells and occasional snow showers during daylight hours, although mainly rain below 600m. Chilly northwest winds. Most of the snow showers dying out in the evening with some clear spells.

**Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m:** 70%

**Visibility:** Mostly very good or excellent, but poor or very poor in snow showers. Occasional or extensive cloud, base near or above the summits, but lower in showers.

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# Met Office Mountain Weather Forecast

**Forecast for Friday 10 Dec 2021**

| Height (m) | Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) | | | | | Wind Direction (blowing from) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 00:00 | 03:00 | 06:00 | 09:00 | 12:00 | 15:00 | 18:00 | 21:00 | 00:00 |
| **900** | 33/41 NW | 32/40 NW | 31/39 NW | 28/36 NW | 28/36 NW | 27/34 NW | 25/32 NW | 20/26 NW | 17/22 NW |
| **600** | 26/36 NW | 22/31 NW | 23/32 NW | 22/31 NW | 23/32 NW | 22/31 NW | 19/28 NW | 16/24 NW | 15/22 NW |
| **300** | 12/31 NW | 9/27 NW | 10/28 NW | 10/26 NW | 11/28 NW | 10/26 NW | 9/24 NW | 7/20 NW | 6/17 NW |
| **Valley** | 11/29 NW | 8/25 NW | 9/26 NW | 9/24 NW | 11/26 NW | 10/23 NW | 9/23 NW | 7/17 W | 7/16 NW |

| Height (m) | Temperature / Feels Like (°C) | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 00:00 | 03:00 | 06:00 | 09:00 | 12:00 | 15:00 | 18:00 | 21:00 | 00:00 |
| **900** | -2/-10 | -2/-11 | -3/-11 | -2/-11 | -2/-10 | -2/-10 | -2/-9 | -2/-9 | -2/-8 |
| **600** | 1/-6 | -0/-7 | -0/-8 | -0/-7 | 1/-6 | 1/-6 | 0/-6 | 0/-5 | 0/-5 |
| **300** | 3/-1 | 2/-2 | 2/-2 | 2/-2 | 3/-1 | 3/-1 | 2/-1 | 2/-1 | 2/-1 |
| **Valley** | 5/2 | 4/2 | 4/1 | 4/1 | 5/2 | 6/2 | 5/2 | 5/3 | 4/2 |
| **Freezing Level*** | 700m | 500m | 500m | 600m | 600m | 600m | 700m | 700m | 700m |

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

**Meteorologist's View**

Winter conditions can be expected over the summits.

**Forecast for Saturday 11 Dec 2021**

**Weather:** Dry and cold overnight and early morning. Soon cloudy and overcast with outbreaks of heavy rain, perhaps a short period of summit snow. Becoming drier and clearer during the evening.

**Maximum wind:** South 25 gusts 40mph over the summits.

**Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m:** Nil to 20% for much of daylight hours, but 80% very early and later in the day.

**Visibility:** Poor or very poor at times in rain and snow. Mostly very good early and later in the day. Extensive cloud, base around 600m at times during daylight hours, but more broken and near or above the summits early and later.

**Temperature:** **Valleys:** Plus 2 Celsius rising to 10 Celsius
**At 800m:** Minus 2 Celsius rising Plus 3 Celsius
**Freezing level:** Well down overnight, but soon rising above the summits during daylight hours.

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# Mountain Weather Forecast

**Ground Conditions Supplement**

Date: Thursday 9 December Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:15 Full report:

There has been an extensive thaw below 500m, with the main snow line now at this level. Above 500m snow depth rises with height although, as ever, the actual depth encountered varies considerably from little on windswept areas, such as the summit plateau, to drifts over 100cm (although such depth is the exception). The deepest drifts are to be found in sheltered spots and hollows and on predominantly N and E facing aspects, although topography is more influential on finding deep drifts. The snowpack was mostly soft making for heavy going especially when going uphill and breaking trail. This is energy sapping and adds significant time, so route planning should allow for this. Conversely, on popular routes there is some compacted hard snow and ice – which may be overlaid by fresh snow/spindrift on Friday. The summit plateau was in places scoured of snow and covered in ice. There are cornices over N and E facing slopes. Although currently relatively small if they crack and break, the fault line will be quite far back from the edge so please do not stand too close to the edge on such slopes and advise those with less experience to do likewise as there are already footprints far too close to the edge. Exposed routes above the snowline, such as Striding and Swirral Edges, are in winter condition, albeit with mostly soft snow, and should only be attempted by those experienced in, and equipped for, winter mountaineering including an ice axe and crampons and an ability to assess the stability, or otherwise, of the snowpack. The exit to Swirral and especially Striding Edge are guarded by banks of deep, steep snow. Again although currently mainly soft it would only take a marginal drop in temperature for this to harden and it is not a place to slip without the means to immediately stop yourself (ice axe arrest). Full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment including torch, map and compass (and the ability to use them) are all essential for anyone going out onto the high fells. Deep snow obscuring landmarks combined with low cloud can make for extremely poor / nil visibility; thus excellent navigational skills are also essential. For those going above the snowline and attempting, or traversing, steep slopes an ice axe and crampons are also essential. As mentioned although the snowpack is currently soft it would only take a marginal drop in temperature for this to change.

Climbers. Unfortunately the gullies are currently full of soft snow. Please wait until routes are in condition to avoid damage to the rare alpine plants….as well as yourselves! Temperature: Minus 1.1 C. Maximum wind speed 19.4 mph. Wind chill: minus 9.2 C. Average wind speed: 17.8 mph.

Issued at: 1442 on Thu 09 Dec 2021

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